IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 1719

International Court of Justice

H1719 – 0001

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY

Ka Exhibit 7

Filed July 3/1946

Before me, the undersigned officer, duly authorized to administer oaths in matters of this type, personally appeared Friedrich Karl, von EBERSTEIN internee #6486, presently confined at United States Internee Camp #78, Zuffenhausen, Germany, who after being duly sworn according to the law, made the following statement:

Q What is your name?
A Friedrich Karl von EBERSTEIN.

Q Is it correct that the concentration camps were managed exclusively by the SS Economics and Main Office (SS Wirtschafts- und Hauptamt), in other words through the line of command of Himmler, Pohl, Gluecks, camp commander, and that Kaltenbrunner as chief of the RSHA had no influence upon them?
A Yes. Kaltenbrunner was in a position to send people as inmates to concentration camps, but was in no position to give orders concerning the administration of these camps.

Q Is it correct that all orders concerning questions of concentration camps could not be issued by anyone but the above named persons within the jurisdiction of the above mentioned agencies?
A Yes. Orders could only be given by Himmler, Pohl, Gluecks and the camp commander.

Q Is it correct that all questions concerning concentration camps were treated with the utmost secrecy; and that the reason for this lies in the fact that the inhumane methods used in the concentration camps became known only to the small circle of people named above, even to the exclusion of all others, including the highest officials of the Reich?
A Everything concerning concentration camps was treated with the utmost secrecy is true, but I do not know whether or not the highest officials of the Reich knew about the treatment of the inmates.

Q Do you know whether Kaltenbrunner ever visited the Dachau concentration camp?
A I do not know.

Q Do you know that Kaltenbrunner had serious differences with the Munich District Leader (Gauleiter) Giessler and on account of them was cautioned by Bormann?
A Yes, I know that Kaltenbrunner had serious differences with the Munich District Leader (Gauleiter) Giessler but I do not know whether Bormann cautioned him or not.

Q Do you know that Kaltenbrunner had been in Austria since 19 April 1945 and did not return to Berlin?
A Yes, I know that Kaltenbrunner was in Austria about the last part of April, 1945, since I met him in Salzburg and also at Berchtesgaden. I do not know whether he returned to Berlin or not.

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Q Is it true that Kaltenbrunner did not know about Giessler's plans to destroy the Dachau concentration camp?

A I do not know whether Kaltenbrunner knew about Giessler's plans to destroy the Dachau concentration camp, but Giessler himself told me he was going to destroy the camp by dropping bombs from airplanes. I did not mention this/Kaltenbrunner.

Q Was the teletype message concerning the evacuation of the Dachau concentration camp signed by Kaltenbrunner?

A I do not know.

Q Do you know whether Kaltenbrunner ever advocated destroying concentration camps in order to avoid their surrender to the approaching enemy?

A I do not know.

Q Would you say that Kaltenbrunner was full of ambition and lust for power and therefore took over the office of chief of the RSHA?

A No. Kaltenbrunner was not full of ambition and lust for power and did not desire to be chief of the RSHA.

Q Is it correct that Kaltenbrunner, when appointed chief of the RSHA, told Himmler that he was only willing to build up a central communication agency for political purposes, foreign and domestic, which up to that time had been lacking in the Reich, and that Himmler, after Heydrich's death, had reserved for himself direct command over Mueller (office IV) and Nebe (Office V)?

A I do not know.

Q Is it true that the SD as such had no authority within the concentration camps and that only a few Gestapo officials visited concentration camps for the purpose of interrogations?

A Yes, it is true.

Q Is it true that the entire executive power over the police (Gestapo, Criminal Police, arrests, shootings, etc) was in the hands of Himmler?

A Yes, it is true.

Q Did you ever, and if so when for the first time, and to what extent, learn of cruelties in the treatment of inmates of concentration camps?

A I heard of cruelties to inmates at concentration camp Dachau from a doctor whose name I do not remember and the camp commandant SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Weither that Dr. Rascher was conducting experiments on human beings at Dachau, in the winter of 1943.

Q Have you any proof of Kaltenbrunner's intention to destroy the Dachau concentration camp by bombs or poison as well as the two Jewish labour camps Landsberg and Muehldorf connected with it?

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This statement was made by Gaustabamtsleiter Gerdes. After having known Kaltenbrunner and his political aims for many years do you consider such a decision by him at all possible?

A No. I have no proof. I consider it impossible for Kaltenbrunner to make such a decision.

The above testimony was given of my own free ~~xx~~ will and accord, with no duress nor promise of reward, and the above testimony was read to me in the German language and I reaffirm that I have stated the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Fhr. v. Eberstein

Friedrich Karl von EBERSTEIN
Internee ~~XX~~ #6486
Camp 78,
Zuffenhausen, Germany.

I, T/4 Walter F. Kunath, after being duly sworn, certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages and that I have faithfully interpreted and translated the above statement.

T/4 Walter F. Kunath

T/4 Walter F. Kunath,
36901711,
Interpreter.

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 12th day of April, 1946,

Ralph R. Levey

Ralph R. Levey,
2nd Lt. AUS
O-2029677
Investigator
3rd Army Judge Advocate Section
War Crimes Branch
Ludwigsburg Detachment, APO 403.

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Dokument K a l t e n b r u n n e r 7

(Fragebogen an Friedr.Karl von Eberstein)

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